

Judicial Branch Fees Senate File 2331

Executive Summary Only

Last Action:

**Senate Judiciary
Committee**

March 5, 2008

An Act relating to filing and docketing fees collected by the clerk of the district court for parking violations and tribal judgments, fees for examination and admission to practice law, appropriations from the jury and witness fee revolving fund, and providing an effective date.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available on line at <http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/noba/index.jsp>

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS**

**SENATE FILE 2331
JUDICIAL BRANCH FEES**

**JURY AND WITNESS FEE
REVOLVING FUND**

- The Jury and Witness Fee Revolving Fund is used for the payment of jury and witness fees, mileage, costs related to summoning jurors by the Judicial Branch, and attorney fees paid by the State Public Defender for counsel appointed for indigent persons.
- The FY 2007 ending balance of the Fund was \$4.9 million. As of March 3, 2008, a total of \$3.1 million in receipts had been deposited and \$2.2 million in expenditures had been paid, leaving a balance of \$5.8 million in the Fund.

TRIBAL JUDGMENT FILING FEE

- Establishes a \$100 fee for filing tribal judgments effective January 1, 2009.
- FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact of adding the \$100 filing fee for tribal judgments cannot be determined since the number of tribal judgments is unknown.

**COURT COSTS FOR PARKING
TICKETS**

- Increases the court costs for parking tickets from \$8 to \$25 per ticket.
 - In FY 2007, there were 6,944 parking tickets that had the \$8 court costs imposed.
 - The estimated collection rate for parking tickets is 76.1% for FY 2009 and 90.8% for FY 2010. It is assumed that the collection rate will remain the same if the court costs are increased, although the actual collection rate may be lower.
- FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact of increasing court costs for parking tickets from \$8 to \$25 will increase revenue to the General Fund by \$86,000 in FY 2009 and \$103,000 in FY 2010.

BAR EXAM FEES

- Transfers the authority to set fees for examination and admission to practice law in Iowa from the Board of Law Examiners to the Iowa Supreme Court. Permits fees collected to be retained by the Board of Professional Responsibility rather than deposited to the General Fund.
 - The amount of bar exam fees deposited in the General Fund from FY 2005 through FY 2008 are as follows:
 - FY 2005 - \$177,000
 - FY 2006 - \$177,000
 - FY 2007 - \$204,000
 - Estimated FY 2008 - \$171,000. Receipts through March 3, 2008, total \$91,000.
- FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact of permitting the Judicial Branch to retain the bar exam fees is a decrease to the General Fund of approximately \$186,000 annually beginning in FY 2009.

EFFECTIVE DATE

- The Sections of this Bill related to the tribal judgment filing fee take effect January 1, 2009.